



FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Families,

Our first communication of the new school year! Welcome!

Please watch the Principal Collins section of the Arbor Heights website/wiki page found at <http://arborheights.wikispaces.com> for important information and messages from school each week. We try to communicate information in a variety of ways to keep you informed: Principal Blog, classroom news, school website, PTSA news and linked website. If there is something you would like to see or learn more about, your feedback is welcome.

I hope to see you at my first Principal Collins Coffee scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 9:15-10:30 in the Arbor Heights Library.

What I have learned by watching your children learn and play during the first week of school.... Arbor Heights is a vibrant community of learners—a place where children and adults work and grow together. Academic achievement and high standards are priorities and a shared focus of the community and staff and are extended to every student. Arbor Heights's diversity is a source of strength and pride and is reflected in the nine different languages spoken, and at least as many cultures represented and celebrated at school each day.

At Arbor Heights we all feel fortunate to live, teach and learn in a “small-town” community where high expectations are valued, all students are accepted and celebrated, and the future and well-being of our children is at the heart of everything we do.

I feel very blessed to be your principal!

Christy

Quick tips for a happy, fun and successful first few weeks of school:

- If your child was excited, but a bit nervous during this first week of school, this is perfectly normal. Anticipation for a new class, new teacher and all the other “firsts” that come along with a new school year has built over the summer. It is normal for children to be excited, yet nervous and perhaps even a bit reluctant. The best thing you can do is let your child express their fears and concerns, validate them, and reassure him/her by being positive and encouraging. Your children look to you for how to respond to something new...so you need to appear relaxed and positive (even if you too are a bit nervous).
- Our Staff and Student Patrol (in the bright vests) monitor the cross walks at three different locations to assist our walking children and families by stopping the traffic at appropriate crossings. Please only use, and allow your children to use, these cross walks when walking to and from school. Be sure to obey the crossing guards when driving to and from our school during these arrival and dismissal times. Failure to stop for a crossing guard is a violation of the law and puts all students in danger.
- Please join me at the PTSA Hot-dog Cook-out Thursday, September 15 starting at 5:30 PM. It's free! A short, general meeting will follow with membership and event information available.

Thank you for your support and for sharing your delightful children!